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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of nicotine and a sweetener ~~or of nicotine and sweeteners~~ as well as ~~acid addition salt with~~ their physiologically acceptable salts or addition salts with a physiologically acceptable acid, wherein nicotine and sweetener are present in a molar ratio of 1:2, in which case the sweetener molecules can be identical or different, said compound masking the nicotine taste for at least 5 minutes.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the sweetener used is ~~acesulfame~~ or an other oxathiazinone sweetener, alitame, aspartame or ~~an aspartame-like~~ a dipeptid and tripeptid based on aspartame, ~~cyclamate or an other~~ a sulfamate sweetener, glycyrrhizin, neotame, saccharin or gluconic acid or their physiologically acceptable salts.

4. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sweetener used is acesufame or acesulfame-K alone or in combination with a further sweetener or with its physiologically acceptable salt.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

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7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) A solid or liquid preparation, in the form of a chewing gum, a chewing tablet or a compressed composition, for the oral administration of nicotine, comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1.

11. (New) A compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein the oxathiazinone sweetener is acesulfame and wherein the sulfamate is cyclamate.

12. (New) A compound of nicotine and two different sweeteners as well as their physiologically acceptable salts or addition salts with a physiologically acceptable acid, wherein nicotine and sweetener are present in a molar ratio of 1:2.

13. (New) A compound according to Claim 12, wherein one of the sweeteners is acesulfame and the other sweetener is saccharin or aspartame.

14. (New) A compound according to Claim 13, wherein the other sweetener is aspartame.